Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended)   A system for optimized routing of print jobs comprising:

means adapted for commencing a print job to a <u>primary printer corresponding to a print</u> port associated with a client machine

queuing means adapted for queuing print job data in accordance with a commenced print job;

means adapted for receiving a print optimization instruction from an associated user;

means adapted for selectively communicating the print job data to the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom;

terminal means adapted for receiving status data from each of a plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a commitment level of each associated printer device relative to prior print job requests associated therewith;

means adapted for receiving a print optimization instruction from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated printer device for printing;

means adapted for receiving, from the associated user, delay criteria data corresponding to an associated delay period associated with commencement of the print job prior to submission thereof;

means adapted for receiving preauthorization data from the associated user corresponding to a pre-authorization of a routing of the print job to at least one secondary associated printer device;

means adapted for determining elapsed time relative to printer availability for commencement of the print job relative to each of the plurality of printer devices;

test means adapted for testing the status data against selected test criteria, elapsed time, and received delay criteria data to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing;

means adapted for generating a display to the associated user inclusive of the elapsed time relative to the at least one alternative associated printer;

mean adapted for receiving, from the associated user, selection data corresponding to a selection of a confirmation to print to the primary printer or alternatively to the at least one alternative associated printer in accordance with preferences of the associated user; and

the terminal means including means adapted for autonomously redirecting, in accordance with received preauthorization data and received selection data, the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with the print optimization instruction and an output of the test means wherein the output of the testing means is indicative that the primary designated associated printer device exceeds the user-specified delay criteria.

2. (Original)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 1 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

3. (Original)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 wherein the print job data is selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device which has the lowest commitment level.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 1 wherein the means adapted for selectively redirecting the print job data the further comprises means adapted for displaying all available associated printer devices for the user to select a secondary associated printer device in which to route the print job data.

8. (Previously Presented)   The system for optimized routing print jobs of claim 2 wherein the means adapted for redirecting the print job data further comprises:

means adapted to receive user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminating means adapted to terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

9. (Previously Presented)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 1 wherein the means adapted for prompting an associated user is a graphical user interface.

10. (Currently amended)   A method for optimized routing of print jobs comprising the steps of:

commencing a print job to a primary printer corresponding to a print port associated with a client machine;

queuing print job data in accordance with a commenced print job;

issuing a prompt to an associated user for a print optimization authority;

selectively communicating the print job data to the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom;

receiving status data from each of a plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of each associated printer device relative to prior print job requests associated therewith;

receiving a print optimization instruction from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing;

receiving, from the associated user, delay criteria data corresponding to an acceptable delay period associated with commencement of the print job prior to submission thereof;

receiving preauthorization data from the associated user corresponding to a pre-authorization of a routing of the print job to at least one secondary associated printer device;

determining elapsed time relative to printer availability for commencement of the print job relative to each of the plurality of printer devices;

testing the status data against selected test criteria, elapsed time, and received delay criteria data to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing;

generating a display to the associated user inclusive of the elapsed time relative to the at least one alternative associated printer;

receiving, from the associated user, selection data corresponding to a selection of a confirmation to print to the primary printer or alternatively to the at least one alternative associated printer in accordance with preferences of the associated user; and

autonomously redirecting, in accordance with received preauthorization data and received selection data, the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with the print optimization instruction and an output of the testing step, wherein the output of the testing step is indicative that the primary designated associated printer device exceeds the user-specified delay criteria.

11. (Original) The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 10 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

12. (Original) The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein the print job data is selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device which has the lowest commitment level.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented)   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the step of

displaying all available associated printer devices for the user to select a secondary associated printer device in which to route the print job data.

17. (Previously Presented)   The method for optimized routing print jobs of claim 11 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the steps of:

receiving user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

18. (Previously Presented)   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein prompting an associated user is performed via a graphical user interface.

Claims 19-30 (Cancelled)

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